

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Always the Bride, Never the Bridesmaid”

8.20.23

- 1) Have you ever attended a particularly memorable wedding? What made it special?**

Read Ephesians 5:22-27 – “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

- 2) In light of this passage, what can we understand about our relationship with God?**
- 3) How do we know when we are following God’s leading?**
- 4) Tell about a time when you felt God gave you something or supplied it for your needs.**

Read John 14:1-3 - "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

- 5) What did Jesus mean when he said He would prepare a place for you?**
- 6) What does it mean that we are the “bride of Christ”?**

Read Revelation 19:7-9 – “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’”

- 7) It’s the knowledge that we are the bride of Christ; how should we live our lives until Jesus returns?**